



HEAD-TO-HEAD

TODAY'S SQUADS



(coach Andrew Henderson)

ORLFC Player Name:

1: Richard Lepori

2: Adam Clay

3: Jon Ford

4: Jack Holmes

5: Jamel Chisholm

6: Lewis Palfrey

7: Steve Roper

8: Phil Joy

9: Sam Gee

10: Jack Spencer

11: Josh Crowley

12: Danny Langtree

13: Liam Thompson

19: Adam Files

20: Gareth Owen

21: Kenny Hughes

22: Danny Grimshaw

23: Craig Briscoe

24: Will Hope

25: Tom Ashton

26: Michael Ward

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London Broncos Player Name:

1: Ben Hellewell

2: Rhys Williams

3: Nathan Stapleton

4: Wes Naiqama

5: Iliess Macani

6: Israel Eliab

7: William Barthau

8: Nick Slyney

9: James Cunningham

10: Eddie Battye

11: Daniel Harrison

12: Matt Garside

14: Andy Ackers

15: Jack Bussey

16: Mark Ioane

17: Mark Offerdahl

18: Jamie Thackray

19: Joseph Keys

20: Scott Leatherbarrow

21: Alex Foster

22: Matt Davis

23: Jon Magrin

24: Alex Walker

25: Toby Everett

32: Elliott Kear

Ref, M Woodhead;

Res, D Arnold; TJs, M Griffiths, L Moore;

Match com, C Morris; Timekeeper, F Hawley.

ROUGHYEDS

OLDHAM VS
LONDON BRONCOS

RETURN



THE PRIDE & THE PASSION!

and the trophies that gave our
magnificent 2015 season a silver lining...



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Chronicle

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How Scott sees it...

View from the Roughyeds' dug-out

HELLO everyone and welcome to what can only be described as a great day for the club and fans of Oldham RLFC.

Firstly, I would like to thank Salybridge Celtic for our use of their fantastic stadium and facilities in the upcoming Kingstone Press Championship season.

The stadium, pitch and staff are an absolute credit to the Celtic club. The staff have been very welcoming and helpful to all of us from Oldham and they have made the transition of grounds very easy for us. Hopefully, we can make Bower Fold as much as a fortress as we did The Whitebank Stadium in previous seasons.



The promotion we gained out of Kingstone Press League One last season spotlighted the size of the task we face over the next six months, as you can see from our first couple of fixtures starting with today's opponents, London Broncos.

London are one of four teams to have full time professional players in the Championship division, which obviously makes today's challenge a very difficult one.

They have seen lots of changes over the last 12 months, including coaching staff and players, and I'm sure their head coach, Hendo, and his assistant, Danny Ward, will do a good job this year and give the Broncos a chance of promotion back to Super League. which is where RL fans are used to seeing them.

What I can say about our players and staff at Oldham RLFC is simply that, from the last game of last season to today's game, they all have been totally focused and excited about the challenge we face week after week in this division, starting with the Broncos.

Everyone connected with this club gives 100 per cent and today will be no exception on and off the pitch. We need to be positive and stick to what we believe is right to maintain our Championship status this year and I'm sure that, with the fans' help, that goal is very achievable.

Many, many, thanks for your outstanding support of players and staff.

Scott



Muse Developments Ltd are sponsors of head coach Scott Naylor AND of his assistant of the past three seasons at Oldham RLFC, Lee Spencer



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drinkware.co.uk for the facts

Silver on show !

as the boys meet their fans at Spindles Town Square Shopping Centre

OUR fans met their promotion heroes in Spindles Town Square Shopping Centre.

Led by captain Lewis Palfrey, the squad made a public appearance in the upper mall after dashing from Saturday morning training.

Our four new signings ---- winger Jamel Chisholm from York City Knights, half-back Danny Grimshaw from Hunslet Hawks, prop Jack Spencer from Halifax and back-row forward Craig Briscoe from Barrow Raiders --- were all there, as were the two trophies we won last season, the League Leaders' Shield and the League One Championship Rose Bowl.

A key feature will see Spindles Town Square Shopping Centre sponsoring, for the full season, our club mascot Roary, who is expected to attend a new Saturday-morning 'Kids' Club' which Spindles Town Square Shopping Centre will launch soon.

Said centre manager Mike Flanagan: "The Centre is delighted to continue its support of the club, both financially and in other ways.

"Partnerships like this are not only beneficial to Oldham RLFC and Spindles Town Square Shopping, but they also benefit the local community, of which Roughyeds and Spindles Town Square are an integral part.



Said club chairman Chris Hamilton: "We have enjoyed an excellent relationship with Spindles Town Square Shopping over the years and we are delighted for that link to continue as we head into the higher division."

"We congratulate Chris, coach Scott Naylor and the players on their promotion success last season and wish them well as they step up to the Championship.

"When local clubs earn the right to move up the sporting ladder it's good for the community and for the town they represent . . . and we at Spindles Town Square Shopping Centre are delighted to be involved."



Roughyeds won 19 of their 22 League One games in 2015, finishing with 13 wins in a row to top the table and then making it 14 by defeating second-placed Keighley Cougars in the promotion final.

Along the way both Palfrey and Naylor were honoured at a black-tie dinner in Manchester as League One player and coach of the year respectively.



Roary flanked by Mike Flanagan (Centre manager) and Katie Bennett (marketing & tenant liaison manager)



Troy Cheetham meets our mascot, Roary the Roughyed



Flying high . . . that's 16-year-old Sophie Nixon on a shopping trip with a difference.

It's all about the history...

It's all about the **HOOPS!**



Our 2016 Season Kit Unveiled...

WE march proudly into the Championship wearing our traditional red and white hoops with blue shorts and red and white socks -

Oldham rugby colours for more than a century.

Last season's home kit has been slightly tweaked by new manufacturers 'errea' but it is basically still red and white hoops - the fans' choice.

Away from home, we will again play in pink and grey, but this year the away-kit will be hooped to match the red-and-white design.

Said club chairman Chris Hamilton: "We apologise for the late availability of replicas, but we had a problem when one of the sponsors had to pull out at the last minute..."

...we then had to find someone to take their place, which inevitably delayed things even more."

Priced at £44.99 (adults) and £39.99 (juniors), replicas are available to order on line by visiting the club website at www.roughyeds.co.uk and clicking on 'shop'.



GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE TEAMS IN THE 2016

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Top-table topics...

Chris Hamilton... from the boardroom

Welcome Back! It's slightly different this year because we aren't at Whitebank, and although we have been forced to move out of town, that in itself signifies that we have finally achieved what some people thought we would never do --- win promotion to the Championship.

It seems a little strange to be writing once again about our achievements last season, but given that this is the first opportunity to do so in a match-day programme, I'm not going to waste it.

For several reasons, 2015 will go down as a great year in the history of the club. Not only did we win the League Leaders' Shield and then the League One Rose bowl, courtesy of our victory in the Promotion Play Off Final, but we also set records with a 14 match unbeaten run that took

us to the Championship. Nobody can deny us that achievement, or grumble about the manner in which we achieved it, as we beat all before us and in convincing fashion to boot. Given that League One was at its strongest last season, it seems a bit surreal that we finally won it after going close on so many previous occasions.

We removed a big monkey off our backs last season and it was a combination of factors that enabled us to do it.

To the group of players who had been with us for three or four years, we added more quality in pre season and then even more during the season.

That lifted the whole squad.

We played entertaining rugby and we racked up points in every game. It was particularly pleasing to do that because quite a few people wrote us off when we lost to North Wales and Keighley early on.

After a big win at Swinton, however, we never looked back; a tremendous accolade to all the players and coaching staff.

Having enjoyed the publicity that comes with such achievements, we were soon back in pre season training with the addition of new faces. *continued opposite*

Jon Ford was hardly a new face, but he was now back as a permanent signing, together with Craig Briscoe, Jamel Chisholm, Danny Grimshaw and Jack Spencer. They were all signed not only for their playing ability but also for their characteristics, which are a big factor in our recruitment policy. Welcome lads, I hope your stays are long and enjoyable.

The new season brings lots of new challenges, not least of which is the move to a "newish" ground. I say "newish" because Salford City FC hosted our Challenge Cup tie against St Helens in 2002 on a shocking day weather wise and before a crowd of over 4,000.

When moving to a new home venue we have to be very organised as we basically move our whole operation from Oldham to wherever. That means we have to make sure that all bases are covered, whether that be stationery, staff or anything else. We certainly can't dash back to Whitebank if we forget something.

Our new Bower Fold partners have been very supportive and welcoming and I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to everybody, but particularly to chairman Rob Gorski and chief executive Ian Milligan.

It is my sincere hope that everybody connected with the Oldham club enjoys the facilities here. There's a great playing surface and everything

else about the stadium lends itself to a great atmosphere. Our opponents today, the London Broncos, also know what its like to move grounds. They have moved again as recently as this close season.

As a full-time team with ambitions to match, they represent a massive challenge to us. It will be a tough ask for our lads to compete in as tough a contact sport as rugby league but, rest assured, they are all looking forward to it.

Broncos chairman David Hughes has put millions of pounds into the Broncos over the years and it is to his eternal credit that he continues to back the club when many would have walked away. I can still recall talking to him at Griffin Park, Brentford when we played them in the Challenge Cup a few years ago and there was certainly plenty of empathy from both of us to the problems of the other!

It will be a good contest today and we are aiming to give a good performance and see where that gets us.

As ever, you have a part to play in getting behind the lads as we go into round one of what will undoubtedly be a tough season. This is where we have wanted to be for a while - **let's make the most of it as we try to establish ourselves in the Championship.**

Enjoy the game,

Chris

Sheffield by night...

ORIGINALLY fixed for Sunday, July 3, our Kingstone Press Championship game at Sheffield Eagles has been brought forward to Friday, July 1 (8pm kick-off), subject to RFL approval.

Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park is unavailable that weekend on Saturday and Sunday.

We are not happy with this because Sheffield are full time and we'll have to travel on a busy Friday after our lads have been at work all week.

We have told Eagles what we think, but their reasons for the change are genuine ones and as far as ground problems are concerned we can sympathise with them. We have, therefore, reluctantly agreed to their request.

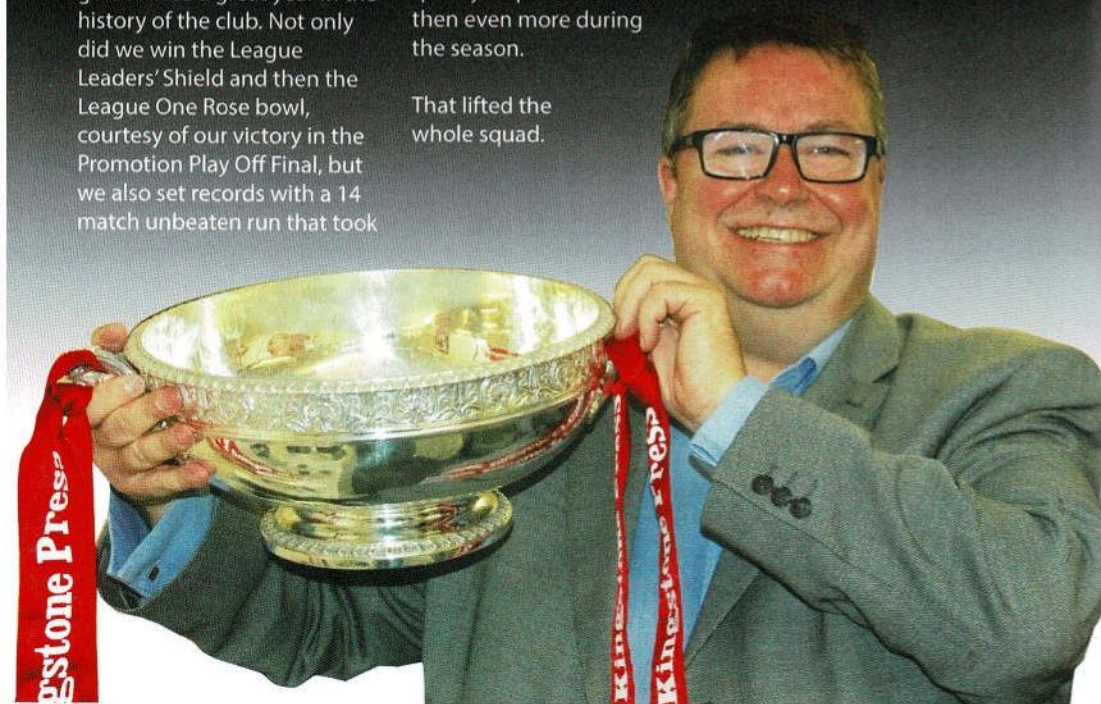
Transport from Whitebank

AS many will already know, we are laying on transport from Whitebank to Bower Fold for every home game this season. The coach will carry more than 70 people and the cost per person (all ages) will be only £1.50 return and will be heavily subsidised by the club.

The Whitebank social club will open at 12.45pm so fans can get a drink before the coach leaves at 1.45pm.

To avoid disappointment, fans need to book in advance for each game during normal office hours (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday) by ringing the club on 07904 898177.

The coach will leave Bower Fold for the return trip to Whitebank 15 minutes after the game finishes.



WHAT THE BOYS DID IN 2015

Player	APP	DG	GLS	TRIES	PTS
Josh Crowley	28	-	-	13	52
Phil Joy	27	-	-	5	20
Liam Thompson	27	-	-	8	32
Lewis Palfrey	26	2	129	11	304
Gareth Owen	25	-	-	5	20
Michael Ward	25	-	-	10	40
Adam Files	24	-	-	3	12
Kenny Hughes	24	-	-	2	8
Danny Langtree	24	-	-	13	52
Adam Neal	24	-	-	3	12
Adam Clay	23	-	-	21	84
George Tyson	23	-	-	12	48
Sammy Gee	22	-	-	7	28
Jack Holmes	22	-	-	15	60
Steve Roper	21	2	18	14	54
Jon Ford	16	-	-	11	44
Nathan Mason	16	-	-	2	8
Jarred Ward	12	-	-	4	16
Tom Dempsey	8	1	2	2	13
Steven Neild	8	-	-	4	16
Oliver Roberts	8	-	-	2	8
Richard Lepori	7	-	-	2	8
Tom Ashton	6	-	-	3	12
David Hewitt	6	-	-	5	20
Richard Joy	6	-	-	2	8
Josh Johnson	5	-	-	2	8
Elliot Liku	4	-	-	2	8
Will Hope	3	-	-	2	8
Jake Connor	2	-	-	1	4
Micky Learmonth	2	-	-	2	8
Jodie Broughton	1	-	-	2	8
Jacob Fairbank	1	-	-	1	4

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Mission Accomplished!



**Roughyeds fly the flag
in their moment of triumph
when the promotion dream became a reality . . .**

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

Submitted By Oldham RL Heritage Trust



Three newly formed London clubs, London Highfield, Acton and Willesden and Streatham and Mitcham had, in the years running up to the outbreak of the Second World War, been accepted into the Northern Rugby League which in those days was comprised of just one division made up of 30 clubs. London Highfield was an early casualty managing to fulfil its fixtures for just two seasons, Acton and Willesden and Streatham and Mitcham faring much the same and just a short time later both these London outposts had locked their gates to rugby league too.

The rugby league continued to tinker with the idea of promoting club rugby league in the capital in order to complement the Challenge Cup final which had some seasons earlier been moved

from the north to Wembley.

One such venture was that in 1955 a new competition - the Associated Television Cup - was dreamed up. The matches played between eight established northern clubs were all competed in the London area Oldham and Featherstone Rovers battling it out on an awful night in November on Queen's Park Rangers' Loftus Rd ground, the second half screened in the London area. The competition, decided on aggregate scores, and won by Warrington was short lived.

But, on September 14th 1980, despite the dissenters, another chapter surrounding rugby league's future in the capital was about to unfold when a brand new club Fulham RLFC and one of the sport's founder clubs, Wigan RLFC, faced up to each other on the iconic Craven Cottage pitch in a second division league match. In front of a crowd approaching 10,000 Fulham won 24-5. The national news was full of it.



What was important here, although unrealised at the time, was that the first cobble had at last been laid in a path that would ensure that the professional code of rugby league would maintain a foothold in London right up to this very day. The brand changed, Fulham, London Crusaders, Harlequins RL, London Broncos almost as often as did the home venue but tough as the journey might have been the argument that our game couldn't survive outside its hinterland could hardly be questioned.

I've supported Oldham for over 60 years and have seen most of the matches played between Londoners and Roughyeds, some to remember, some to forget mingled in with some dubious planning like a Friday night game at Charlton's Valley stadium most of the Oldham supporters not arriving until approaching half-time!

But, for me the most memorable match against the southern club was our away game against Fulham in 1983. Because of promotion and relegation our paths hadn't crossed until earlier that season when we beat the Londoners at Watersheddings 30-12 in our very first encounter.

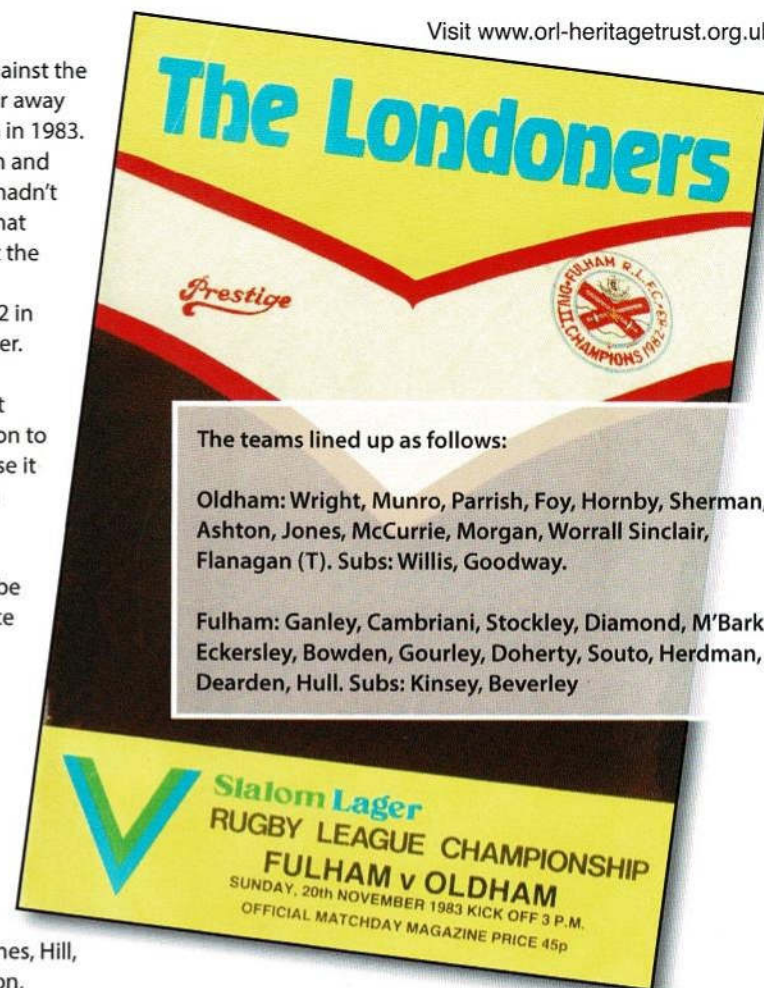
The return fixture that season was an occasion to remember not because it was a humdinger of a game, it was far from that. It was Oldham's first league match to be played in London since the Streatham & Mitchell and London Highfield era. Craven Cottage the victorian stadium of Fulham football club looked like a picture perched on the banks of the Thames and the home of legends Haynes, Hill, Mullery, Cohen, Robson, Marsh, Welland et al and with a wisp of imagination ghosts of those stout Oldham players Tom White, Bert Avery and Jimmy Lomas who had represented England against the touring Kangaroos played on this ground back in 1911 could send a cold shiver down the spine

The Lancastrians arrived at Craven Cottage mid-season oozing confidence having already seen off Wigan, Leigh,

Hull, Castleford, and St Helens at Watersheddings and drawn away to both Warrington and Castleford. Fulham had lost their last three and were on the edge of the relegation zone.

Fulham dictated the game via their two halves Eckersley and Bowden tries coming via winger Cambriani, sub Kinsey and second-row Dearden with Eckersley adding a drop and Diamond four goals.

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The teams lined up as follows:

Oldham: Wright, Munro, Parrish, Foy, Hornby, Sherman, Ashton, Jones, McCurrie, Morgan, Worrall Sinclair, Flanagan (T). Subs: Willis, Goodway.

Fulham: Ganley, Cambriani, Stockley, Diamond, M'Barki, Eckersley, Bowden, Gourley, Doherty, Souto, Herdman, Dearden, Hull. Subs: Kinsey, Beverley

Oldham disappointingly ended without a try Mick Parrish adding the only points from two penalties. Fulham 21 Oldham 4.

But for me the final score didn't hurt. Well, not too painfully!

For the record Oldham ended that campaign 10th in a first division of 16. Fulham were relegated from 13th spot.

This is London calling...

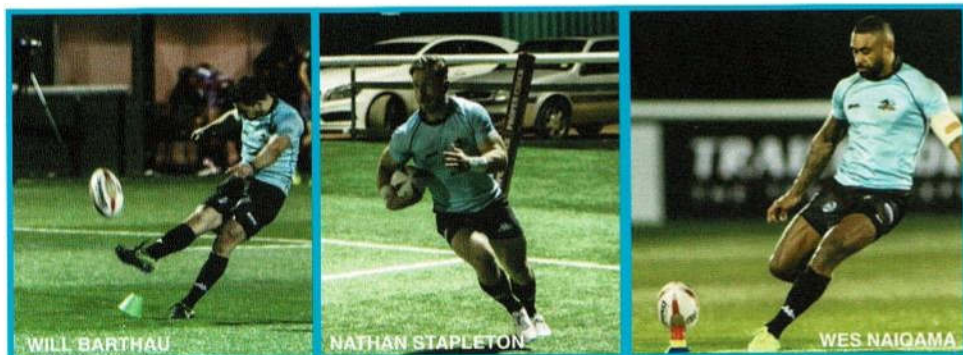
THE senior team in our capital city has invested heavily this year in a bold bid to regain their Super League status at the second attempt.

No fewer than ten new recruits have arrived from home and abroad as coach Andrew Henderson has set out his stall to take the Broncos back into the best competition this country can offer.



From overseas he has brought in Nathan Stapleton (26), a centre from Sydney Roosters; Mark Offerdahl (27), a forward who has previously played in Australia, Wales, the USA and France; Israel Eliab (25), a half-back from PNG; and Mark Ioane, a prop from St George Illawarra, but a Kiwi by birth

more than 60 games for Cronulla's first-grade squad before moving on to the Roosters and Ioane having averaged ten games a year at the highest level for the past three years with New Zealand Warriors, Canberra Raiders, Gold Coast Titans and latterly St George.



From nearer home, he has enlisted two half-backs in Scott Leatherbarrow (Batley) and Jack Bussey (Featherstone); two hookers in Andy Ackers (Swinton) and James Cunningham (Hull FC); and a couple of other forwards in Alex Foster (Featherstone) and Eddie Battye (Sheffield).

Stapleton and Ioane have considerable NRL experience, Stapleton having played

Others to watch out for are 33-year-old centre Wes Naiqama, who was once at Penrith Panthers, and William Barthau (26), a half-back or hooker from Catalan Dragon

Other Aussies still at the club from last year include vice-captain Daniel Harrison (once of Manly), prop Nick Slyney (Brisbane Broncos) and Rhys Williams (Central Capras, Queensland),



ORSA wishes The Roughyeds
Good Luck for the 2016 Season

ORSA - Is the Oldham Roughyeds Supporters Association, the official, but independently run supporters club of Oldham RLFC. ORSA has a dedicated bank account and is fully accountable to all members.

ORSA - Supports the Players and Coaching Staff, by supporting them with various forms of sponsorship or by the provision of equipment/items that are generally outside the club's remit.

ORSA IN 2015 - Apart from more general sponsorship, ORSA committed to be directly responsible for the players' match day nutritional requirements and did so in direct conjunction with the club's backroom staff. At the end of season, Scott Naylor acknowledged ORSA's support as an important asset in maintaining the squad's fitness levels.

ORSA IN 2016 - The challenges ahead are massive. ORSA hopes to extend their membership and increase their support of the coaching and playing staff as they face up to those challenges.

ORSA'S FUNDS - Are achieved by annual memberships; donations; match day fund raising; various events. Every penny is used to benefit the Roughyeds squad.



How You Can Help

- JOIN ORSA FOR AN ANNUAL FEE OF £10 (age 60+ £7.50, age 16 and under £5).
- DONATIONS OR RAFFLE PRIZES ARE WELCOME
- SUPPORT FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

For further details please speak to any ORSA representative on match day or contact the Secretary, Grant Somerville on 01706 844810.

ORSA GIVES FANS THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP STRENGTHEN
OLDHAM RLFC IN AN ACHIEVABLE WAY.

Our New Likely Lads:

CRAIG BRISCOE (22) --- second-row forward, previously with Leigh and Barrow. Born in Wigan, he signed for Leigh from Wigan St Jude's when he was 16. Played 52 senior games for the Centurions, 30 of them in 2012 when they finished second to Featherstone in the Championship. Later went to Barrow, initially on loan, where he spent two seasons. Offered a new deal for 2016 but opted to sign for Scott Naylor's promoted League One champions.

JACK SPENCER (24) --- 'Spanner jnr' is the son of our assistant coach Lee Spencer. A prop, like his dad before him, Jack passed through the academy system at Salford, where he played seven Super League games before he was 21. He later played for Barrow and Halifax for whom, in total, he strung together more than 40 appearances at Championship level. He has also tasted rugby league overseas, having played in Australia and in France with Villeneuve Leopards.

JAMEL CHISHOLM (22) --- Leeds born, Jamel is reputed to be one of the fastest wingers in rugby league. Described by Roughyeds as an 'exciting prospect', Jamel joined Leeds Rhinos on scholarship as a 15-year-old and a year later signed pro forms for the Super League club, where he would spend five years. He played at under-18s and under-20s levels before moving on to York City Knights, who loaned him to Hemel and London Skolars to gain more experience.

DANNY GRIMSHAW (29) ----- an experienced half-back who has previously served York City Knights and Hunslet Hawks. Has played 50 of his 122 senior games in the Championship across a pro career spanning ten years --- the first four at York and the other six at Hunslet. Born in the former pit village of Sharlston, near Featherstone, he twice played for Sharlston Rovers against Oldham in the Challenge Cup, at Boundary Park in 2004 and at Post Office Road a year later.



Left to right: Craig Briscoe, Jack Spencer, Jamel Chisholm, Danny Grimshaw.

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FIXTURES & RESULTS



Comp,	Date	Opponents	Venue	Kick Off	Result	Att
FEBRUARY						
KP Champ	Sunday 7th	London Broncos	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 14th	Leigh Centurions	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 21st	Dewsbury Rams	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 28th	Featherstone R.	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
MARCH						
KP Champ	Sunday 6th	Bradford Bulls	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 13th	Workington T	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
CC (4)	Sunday 20th	TBC				
KP Champ	Good Fri 25th	Halifax	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Mon 28th	Swinton Lions	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
APRIL						
KP Champ	Sunday 3rd	Batley Bulldogs	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 10th	Sheffield Eagles	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
CC (5)	Sunday 17th					
KP Champ	Saturday 23rd	Whitehaven	A	6.30pm	TBC	TBC
MAY						
KP Champ	Sunday 1st	Featherstone R	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
CC (6)	Sunday 8th					
KP Champ	Sunday 15th	Leigh Centurions	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 22nd	Halifax	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
Summer Bash	Sunday 29th	Swinton Lions	BR*	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
JUNE						
KP Champ	Sunday 5th	Batley Bulldogs	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 12th	Dewsbury Rams	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 19th	London Broncos	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 26th	Whitehaven	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
JULY						
KP Champ	Friday 1st	Sheffield Eagles	A	8.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 10th	Swinton Lions	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 17th	Bradford Bulls	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 24th	Workington T	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
CC (S/F)	Sunday 31st					

NOTE: The above 23 Kingstone Press Championship fixtures *(11 home and 11 away plus the additional Summer Bash game against Swinton Lions at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool) will be followed by another seven in the Super 8s, these to be played on Sundays throughout August and September.

NOTE: Since the fixtures were first released by the RFL last October, our game at Sheffield Eagles has been brought forward from Sunday, July 3 to Friday night, July 1, kick-off 8.00pm.

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"Always a good day out. Staff are very friendly and helpful"
Lorraine Hunt

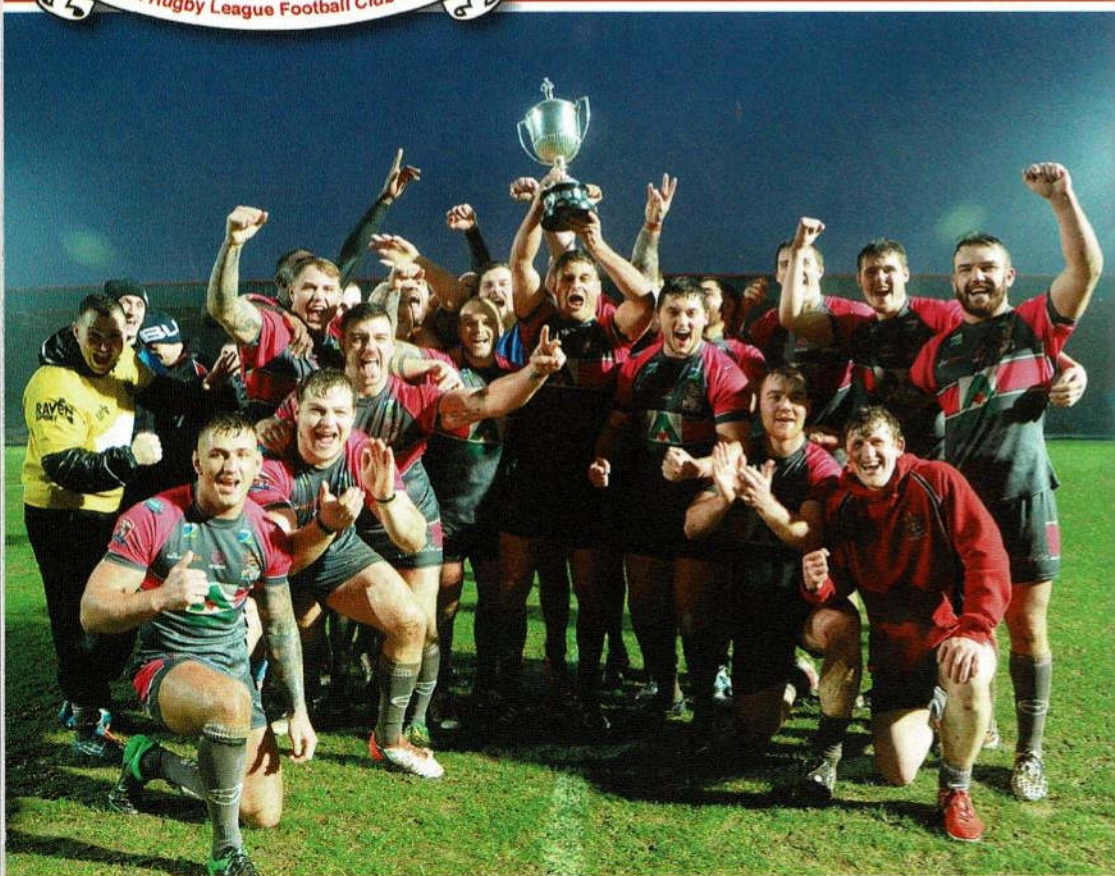


LAYING down *the Law...*



Oldham Rugby League Football Club Limited

that was our lads at Rochdale
last Sunday when we retained
the pre-season Law Cup
with a 29-12 win



Picture by OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

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